

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 3-4 Dec. 2023

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Important News Articles

GS I

1. 'India will be largest cotton producer' - The Hindu

Relevance: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

News:

- **India will strive to become the largest cotton producer globally**, Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry, said in Mumbai
- **He inaugurated an annual global meeting** of a UN recognised body of cotton producing and consuming nation

Prelims Takeaway

- National Technical Textiles Mission

Leadership in Textile Industry

- **India plans to lead in cotton and technical textiles**, with advisory groups for both cotton and manmade fibers representing the entire textile value chain.
- **The country has launched PM MITRA**, a scheme for mega textile parks to boost the entire textile value chain.
- **Currently the second-largest producer**, but there is the need to enhance productivity to rival countries like Australia.

National Technical Textiles Mission

- **It focuses on research and development** in technical textiles, which serve specific functions rather than aesthetic appeal.
- The mission aims to promote **innovation and improve the quality** of technical textiles.

Ambitious Industry Targets

- The Indian textile industry aims **to achieve \$250 billion by 2030, including \$100 billion from exports**.
- **The "Kasturi Cotton Bharat" brand**, claimed to be traceable through blockchain technology and "carbon positive," was introduced.

GS II

2. Highest cases of sexual violence make Delhi most unsafe for women - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News:

- **The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** annual report reveals that **Delhi**, for the third consecutive year, is the **most unsafe** metropolitan city for women in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- The National Crime Records Bureau

Key Points

- The city reported an alarming average of three rape cases daily, **with a total of 14,158 crimes against women in 2022**, the highest among 19 metropolitan cities.

Details of Crimes

- The NCRB data indicates 1,204 reported rape cases, **3,909 incidents of kidnapping or abduction of women**, and 129 cases of dowry deaths.

Police Challenges and Efforts

- Most **incidents involve known individuals**, making prevention difficult.
- The police have **focused on awareness campaigns**, educating on safe and unsafe situations, particularly in schools and colleges.
- **Self-defense training camps** for women have been conducted, with efforts to convert complaints into FIRs.

- The rise in reported cases is seen as a positive sign, indicating **increased awareness and reporting.**

Overall Crime Trends in Delhi

- **The report notes an increase in crime against senior citizens** and a doubling of cybercrime cases in 2022, rising from 345 to 685.
- **The city reported 501 murders, 106 cases of human trafficking**, with a notable disproportion – all of whom were recovered.

Concerns and Police Perspective

- There is concern over **Delhi's crime statistics** and the challenges faced by law enforcement.
- The police assert that **increased reporting reflects efforts to combat crime**, emphasising ongoing initiatives and the importance of community awareness.

3. After COVID break, Centre approves fourth phase roll-out of GIAN scheme - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News:

- The Ministry of Education is set to resume the **fourth phase of the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)**
- The program, **aimed at bringing distinguished scholars worldwide to teach at Indian universities**, faced a temporary halt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration

Key Points

Financial Investment and Notable Scholars

- The Central government has invested a substantial ₹126 crore in **supporting foreign faculty's travel and honorarium.**

Evaluation and Recommendation for Continuation

- **The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)** has **recommended** the continuation of GIAN after evaluating the scheme's impact.

Distribution of Courses and Concerns

- **Approximately 39% of courses took place at IIT campuses**, while State Universities had a lower share.
- **Efforts are urged to encourage** renowned faculty visits to smaller colleges for exposure to high-quality lecturership in State universities.

Embracing Online Learning and Future Plans

- In the upcoming phase, the **Ministry of Education insists on video recording** and webcasting of courses, aiming to create a repository of GIAN lectures accessible to universities across India.
- This move aligns with the intention to **use these lectures as teaching and assessment tools** in an online consortium for students and teachers across multiple universities.

GS III

4. India not among 118 nations that pledged to push green energy - The Hindu/ Over 110 countries pledge to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 - Indian Express/ Coal phase-out in COP28 pledge, India refrains from endorsing it - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

News:

- During the ongoing COP28 climate summit in Dubai, **118 countries pledged to triple installed renewable energy capacity by 2030.**
- **Notably absent from the list are India and China**, the latter being the world's largest in installed renewable energy capacity.

Prelims Takeaway

- COP-28

Key Points**Background of the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge**

- The proposal for a substantial increase in renewable energy capacity and energy efficiency was initially suggested by European Commission President
- It gained traction in the **New Delhi G20 declaration** in September.

Pledge Details and Concerns

- **The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge** aims to triple worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 GW
- It **doubles the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements** to more than 4 percent by 2030.
- However, **India did not sign the pledge**, with concerns about the language used in the text.

India's Current Commitments

- India, as part of its nationally determined contributions (NDCs), has already committed to **installing 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030**.
- **With nearly 170 GW already installed as of March 2023**, there is a debate on whether large dams, considered renewable by India, should be included.

Legal Status of the Pledge

- **The pledge currently lacks legal sanctity** and has not been included in the main negotiating texts for COP-28.
- **The commitment by countries is yet to be finalised** and incorporated into the overarching COP-28 agreement by December 12.

Reactions and Hope for Future Engagement

- While both the **United States and Brazil, the second and third-largest** in installed renewable energy capacity, signed the pledge, India's absence disappointed some experts.
- There is **hope that India, with its ambitious targets of 450 GW** of renewable energy by 2030, may champion the cause in the main COP-28 text, providing a boost to the global renewables sector.

5. Stocktake should account for failures of developed countries: BASIC grouping - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

News:

- The BASIC grouping has **advocated for a comprehensive evaluation of the Global Stocktake (GST)** during the ongoing COP28 climate talks in Dubai.
- The BASIC grouping, comprises **Brazil, South Africa, India and China**

Prelims Takeaway

- COP28

Key Points**Global Stocktake Significance**

- **The Global Stocktake is a crucial element of the 2015 Paris Agreement**, serving to monitor its implementation and assess collective progress towards agreed-upon goals.

BASIC Grouping's Stance

- Delegates from the BASIC grouping have emphasized that the **GST should not only acknowledge achievements but also account for failures**
 - particularly on the part of developed nations.

Background on BASIC Countries

- The BASIC countries, formed in 2009, **include Brazil, South Africa, India, and China**.
- They committed to **collective action at the Copenhagen climate summit** and hinted at a united walkout if developed nations failed to meet their common minimum position.

COP28 Overview

- The summit, running through December 12, includes **Global Climate Action Summit discussions** and anticipates significant political decisions in the final days to shape resolutions.

6. Six exoplanets found orbiting a nearby bright star - The Hindu

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

News:

- Recently, astronomers discovered **six sub-Neptune planets orbiting the bright star HD 110067.**
- The discovery will offer insights into the **formation of the system** and the **composition of the planets' atmospheres.**

Prelims Takeaway

- HD 110067 System
- sub-Neptune planets

HD 110067 System

- HD 110067, the **brightest star**, is located approximately 100 light-years away in the **Coma Berenices constellation.**
- It is known to host more than **four transiting exoplanets.**
- There is a possibility of **additional undiscovered planets** within or beyond the temperate zone.
 - This provides a unique opportunity to study sub-Neptunes and their formation.

sub-Neptune planets

- Planets with **radii between Earth and Neptune**, termed 'sub-Neptunes,' are **common around Sun-like stars.**
- These are the **most commonly observed types of planets** in our galaxy.
- They could be **rocky worlds with thick atmospheres of hydrogen and helium gas**, or composed of rock and ice with warm, water-rich atmospheres.
- Despite their prevalence, details regarding the **composition, formation, and evolution of sub-Neptunes remain unclear.**

Key Findings

- The six planets were detected by **observing minute dimming of the star's brightness** as each planet transited, or passed in front of, the star from our perspective on Earth.
- All six planets **exhibit resonant orbits**, suggesting a **stable system** dating back at least four billion years.
- The study calculated the masses of the planets and estimated their densities, revealing **relatively low densities.**
- The low densities could be attributed to **large, hydrogen-rich atmospheres** surrounding the planets.

7. Codex Alimentarius Commission Praises India's Standards on Millets - PIB

Relevance: Food processing and related industries in India

News:

- Recently, the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** praised **India's Standards on Millets.**
- It also accepted India's proposal for the **development of global standards for millets** during its 46th session held in Rome, Italy.
- The proposal coincides with the celebration of **2023 as the International Year of Millets.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Millets

India's Millet Standards

- India framed a **comprehensive group standard covering 15 types of millets** with 8 specified quality parameters.
- The standards received appreciation at the international level, with **Codex currently having standards for Sorghum and Pearl Millet.**

Global Standards Proposal

- India proposed the development of global standards for millets, focusing on **Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet** and **Little millet** as group standards.
- The proposal was **unanimously endorsed** by representatives from 161 member countries, including the European Union.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission

- It is an **international food safety and quality standard-setting body**.
- It was created by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the United Nations in May 1963.
- **Objective:** Protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- **Members:** It consists of 189 member countries including India.
- Membership of the Commission is **open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO** interested in international food standards.
- The Commission meets in **regular sessions once a year**, alternating between Geneva and Rome.
- **Funding:** Funded through the **regular budgets of WHO and FAO**.
- All its work is **subject to the approval of the two governing bodies** of the parent organisations.
- The Commission works in the **six official languages of the UN**.



Mentorship
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Why is COP-28 summit focusing on health? - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- The **United Nations Conference of Parties (COP28) summit in UAE** is set to address the **crucial intersection of climate change and public health**.

<p style="text-align: center;">Global Impact of Climate Crises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate crises erode socioeconomic and environmental conditions in profound ways. Unabated greenhouse gas emissions contribute to extreme weather events, air pollution, food insecurity, water scarcity and population displacement. All these result in the alteration of disease vectors and threats to public health. Regions like Africa, Asia, South and Central America, and small island developing states contribute the least to climate change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, they are bearing the brunt i.e. disproportionately affected. <p style="text-align: center;">India's Vulnerability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India, in particular, faces significant challenges, with particulate air pollution deemed the 'greatest threat to human health'. Heat-related deaths may kill an additional 10 lakh people annually by 2090 Failure to meet emission targets under the Paris Agreement could lead to at least 34 lakh deaths per year globally by the end of the century. <p style="text-align: center;">COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 123 governments endorsed the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health recently. The designated Health Day on December 3 focuses on "Health, Relief, Recovery, and Peace". It features the first-ever Health Inter-ministerial meeting with ministers of health, environment, finance, and other ministries. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Critical Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While acknowledging the significance of Health Day, concerns are raised about the integration of health into the negotiation processes. The COP28 Declaration is expected to cover discussions on mitigating emissions, health sector adaptation, mainstreaming health into climate policies, and climate financing for health. However, it does not mention fossil fuels, a major contributor to climate change and health threats. <p style="text-align: center;">Importance of Global Stocktake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP28 is crucial as parties are expected to deliver the first-ever Global Stocktake, assessing progress toward Paris Agreement climate targets. Integrating health into the Global Stocktake would make it a key metric, highlighting the interconnectedness of climate action and public health. Most G20 countries have failed to centre health in their climate action, as per a 2023 analysis by the Global Climate and Health Alliance. <p style="text-align: center;">Financial Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health crises triggered by warming climate are expected to chart a financial toll of around \$2-4 billion annually by 2030. 40% of climate-related poverty would be due to direct health impacts, as people's income, productivity and health costs would soar. The COP28 Declaration endorses climate-health funding from various sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These include domestic budgets, multilateral development banks, multilateral climate funds, philanthropies, and the private sector. However, the conversation about climate reparations is likely to be contentious.
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Success of COP 28

- The success of COP28 is **measured by**
 - its commitment to a fossil fuel phase-out
 - a just transition to renewable energy
 - emission reduction commitments
 - grant-based climate financing
 - the ongoing consideration of health as a cross-cutting theme in negotiations.

Conclusion

- While health has a seat at the COP28 table, its **influence on negotiations and decision-making** remains to be seen.
- The legacy of the first Health COP hinges on ensuring that **health remains a continuous component** in climate discussions.

2. India, disability inclusion and the power of 'by' - The Hindu

Relevance: Social

Context:

- **Disability**, as a multifaceted identity, **intersects with social, economic, and gender vulnerabilities**, necessitating comprehensive considerations for equitable action.

Current Scenario

- Globally, 1.3 billion people live with some form of disability.
- Of them, 80% live in developing countries; further, 70% of them live in rural areas.
- Current systems often exclude people with disabilities, leading to higher instances of poverty, limited education, and social and economic discrimination.

Shift in Approach - 'By' Instead of 'For'

- The approach to disability inclusion must be "by" persons with disabilities, involving them in the process rather than actions being done "for" them.
- This shift is crucial for meaningful inclusion and empowerment.

Economic Impact

- Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the economy can boost global GDP by 3% to 7%, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- Disability inclusion is rooted in recognizing rights and understanding the economic benefits.

Challenges in Rural Areas

- Rural areas pose greater challenges for persons with disabilities, limiting access to education and employment.
- Developmental schemes often exclude them, viewing them as objects of charity rather than active participants.
- A bottom-up approach to disability inclusion is crucial
 - o To build productive pathways out of poverty
 - o To ensure that persons with disabilities are recognised as active members of society and the economy.

Role of Private Sector

- The private sector plays a pivotal role in promoting the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Engaging employers' federations and trade unions is essential for fostering an inclusive work environment.

The SPARK Project

- The ILO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s SPARK project empowers persons with disabilities in rural areas.
- Persons with disabilities are put in the lead, being identified from the villages, and trained as Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs).
- The DIFs engage with communities to raise awareness and identify opportunities for social and economic development.

Conclusion

- The goal of social justice requires the **inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of development**, particularly in rural areas.
- A **fundamental shift** in commitment, solidarity, financing, and action is crucial to **prioritise the voices and needs of persons with disabilities** on the global development agenda.

3. What is All India Judicial Service, why it has failed to become a reality - Indian Express

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Context:

- The President of India, during the Supreme Court's Constitution Day celebration, urged for the establishment of an "**all-India judicial service**".
- **Objective:** To diversify the judiciary and enhance representation from marginalised social groups.

Constitutional Provisions

- Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services.
- Requires a resolution by the Rajya Sabha, supported by two-thirds majority (present and voting), in the national interest.
- However, the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.

All-India Judicial Service (AIJS)

- The AIJS seeks to centralise the recruitment of judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges for all states.
- The recruitment of judges of the lower judiciary is being proposed to be made central, following which they'll be assigned to states.
- Just as the UPSC conducts a central recruitment process and assigns successful candidates to cadres.

The Current Procedure

- Articles 233 and 234 allocate the appointment of district judges to states.
- State Public Service Commissions and High Courts handle the selection process for lower judiciary judges.
- Panels of HC judges interview candidates after the exam and select them for appointment.
- All judges of the lower judiciary up to the level of district judges are selected through the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exam.

AIJS Proposal Rationale

- The idea originated in the 1958 Law Commission Report 'Report on Reforms on Judicial Administration'.
- Objective: To ensure an efficient subordinate judiciary to address issues like varying pay, quicker vacancy filling, and standardised training.
- The idea was proposed again in the Law Commission Report of 1978, which discussed delays and arrears of cases in the lower courts.
- In 2006, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice, in its 15th Report, also supported the idea of a pan-Indian judicial service.

SC Rulings

- In the case of 'All India Judges' Association (1) vs UOI' in 1992, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to establish an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS).
- However, a 1993 review of the judgement granted the Centre the freedom to take initiatives on the AIJS issue.
- In 2017, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of the appointment of district judges.
- It proposed a "Central Selection Mechanism" through a common examination instead of separate state exams.
- Based on the merit list, HCs would then hold interviews and appoint judges.

Challenges and Implementation Hurdles

- Despite steps by the Centre, including a comprehensive proposal in 2012, no consensus was reached among state governments and High Courts.
- Diverging opinions among stakeholders, lack of consensus, and differing views on eligibility and criteria have hindered AIJS implementation.

Quick Look

1. Hauz-e-Shamsi (Delhi)

- It was built in 1229 CE under the reign of Iltutmish.
- It was also known as Shamshi Talab.
- It is a water storage reservoir or tank.
- Material: Red sandstone
- Islamic Prophet Mohammad directed Iltutmish in his dreams to build the reservoir at a particular site.
- It is a double-storeyed structure supported on twelve pillars.

2. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- The Defence Acquisition Council recently accorded approval for Acceptance of Necessity (AoNs) for various capital acquisition proposals amounting to ₹2.23 lakh crore.
- DAC is the highest decision-making body of the Defence Ministry on procurement.
- Objective: To ensure expedited procurement of the approved requirements of the armed forces.
- It was formed after the Group of Ministers' recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post-Kargil War (1999).
- The Defence Minister is the chairman of DAC.
- Its members include the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

3. Project Kuiper

- It is Amazon's project to build a network of 3,236 satellites in low Earth orbit to provide high-speed internet access anywhere in the world.
- Its mission is to bring fast, affordable broadband to unserved and underserved communities around the world.
- Project Kuiper has three main parts viz.
 - Ground infrastructure
 - It includes gateway antennas that securely send and receive customer data to and from satellites, along with telemetry, tracking, and control (TT&C) antennas.
 - Global networking connects those gateway antennas to the internet, public cloud, or private networks.
 - Satellites: They operate in low Earth orbit (LEO) and relay data traffic to and from gateway antennas and customers.
 - Customer terminals
 - These are the technologies that Project Kuiper customers use to receive broadband service.
 - The terminals combine antennas and processors into a single, compact system to deliver connectivity.

4. Anthrobots

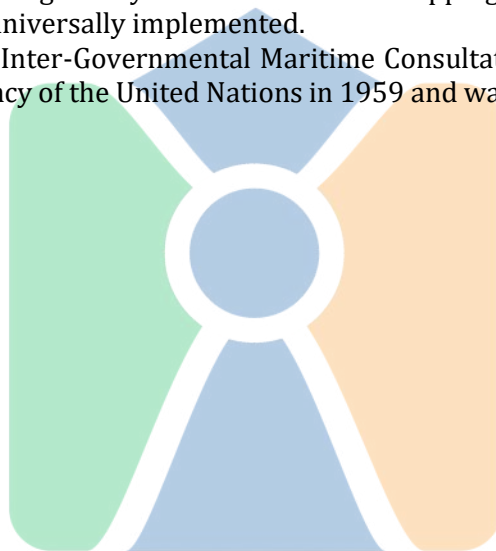
- These are constructed from human tracheal cells which are bio-robots that possess self-assembly capabilities.
- These are capable of both movement and healing neurons within a laboratory setting.
- They can spontaneously fuse together to form a larger structure called a superbot, which was able to encourage the growth of neurons.
- They are measuring between the width of a human hair and the tip of a sharpened pencil.
- The anthrobots displayed diversity in structure and behavior. Some took on a spherical shape fully covered in cilia, while others resembled a football shape irregularly adorned with cilia.
- These anthrobots are different from Xenobots, which are created from embryonic stem cells of frog.

5. Voice over 5G

- It is also known as Voice over New Radio (VoNR).
- This standard allows voice calls over 5G networks instead of the current standard that uses 4G.
- In simple terms, Vo5G takes all the improvements of 5G – speed, capacity, responsiveness – and applies them squarely to voice.
- It aims to have all that infrastructure and interoperability ready well in advance.
- To use Vo5G, you need three things: a phone that supports Vo5G, a carrier that offers Vo5G, and a 5G signal in your area.

6. International Maritime Organisation

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships.
- It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
- Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- It was established as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in 1948, became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1959 and was renamed International Maritime Organization in 1982.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding PM MITRA:

1. PM MITRA is a government initiative aimed at promoting renewable energy projects across the country.
2. The scheme includes the establishment of mega textile parks to boost the entire textile value chain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

1. NCRB is a constitutional body established to maintain a comprehensive national database on crime and criminal activities in India.
2. It releases an annual report titled "Crime in India," providing statistical information on crime across the country.
3. The NCRB is an autonomous body operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN):

1. GIAN aims to facilitate the exchange of eminent scholars from across the world to teach at Indian universities.
2. The initiative is a part of the Ministry of External Affairs, India, to promote international collaborations in the field of academic research.
3. GIAN has a primary focus on online courses, fostering a digital learning environment.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

C. All three

D. None

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

1. NDCs are commitments made by countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.
2. These contributions are legally binding and require mandatory compliance by the signatory countries.
3. NDCs are a part of the Paris Agreement, a global effort to combat climate change.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding The BASIC countries

1. It includes Brazil, South Africa, India, and China, forming a bloc of major emerging economies.
2. Its formation was a result of an agreement at the Kyoto Protocol negotiations in 1997.
3. These countries are actively involved in climate change negotiations and advocate for common but differentiated responsibilities.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q6. Consider the following statements on sub-Neptune planets

1. These are the planets having radii between Earth and Neptune.
2. These are the most commonly observed types of planets in our galaxy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. Consider the following statements on The Codex Alimentarius Commission

1. It is an international food safety and quality standard-setting body.
2. It was created by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
3. It currently has standards for all the types of Millets.

How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q8. With reference to Global Stocktake, consider the following statements

1. It is a periodic review mechanism established under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2015.
2. The stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at the end of 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. With reference to Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, consider the following statements

1. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 14 years shall have the right to free education.
2. It covers 25 types of disabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. Consider the following statements

1. The All-India Judicial Service (AIJS) seeks to centralise the recruitment of any post inferior to that of a district judge.
2. Article 312 of the Constitution also provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- PM MITRA stands for Prime Minister's Initiative for Textiles & Apparel.
- It is a Central government scheme focused on setting up mega textile parks and promoting the entire value chain in the textile sector. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The initiative aims to enhance the competitiveness of the textile industry, create jobs, and facilitate the growth of the sector. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Ans.2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- NCRB is not a constitutional body; it is a statutory body established based on the resolution issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- The NCRB releases an annual report titled "Crime in India," which provides comprehensive statistical information on various aspects of crime, including crimes against women, cybercrime, and more. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- NCRB operates as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It acts as the nodal agency for the collection and analysis of crime data at the national level. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Ans.3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- GIAN, or the Global Initiative of Academic Networks, is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- It aims to facilitate the participation of international faculty in delivering courses in Indian institutions.
- GIAN is focused on enhancing the quality of education in Indian universities by bringing in scholars of international repute to teach

specialized courses. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- While GIAN encourages collaborations and international exchanges, its primary focus is on physical presence and direct interactions between international scholars and Indian students and faculty. It does not primarily focus on online courses. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

Ans. 4 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are voluntary commitments made by countries to outline their intended actions to address climate change. These commitments include both mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- NDCs are not legally binding; they are voluntary and represent the national climate targets that countries set for themselves. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- NDCs are an integral part of the Paris Agreement, a global treaty adopted in 2015 during COP21, where countries collectively pledged to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Ans.5 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The BASIC countries, comprising Brazil, South Africa, India, and China, are a bloc of major emerging economies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- They play a significant role in international forums, particularly in discussions related to climate change and sustainable development.
- The formation of BASIC was a result of an agreement during the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009, not the Kyoto Protocol

negotiations in 1997. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

- BASIC countries emphasize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, asserting that while all countries should contribute to addressing climate change, developed nations should take on greater responsibilities given their historical contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Ans.6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Planets with radii between Earth and Neptune, termed 'sub-Neptunes,' are common around Sun-like stars. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- These are the most commonly observed types of planets in our galaxy. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- They could be rocky worlds with thick atmospheres of hydrogen and helium gas, or composed of rock and ice with warm, water-rich atmospheres.
- Despite their prevalence, details regarding the composition, formation, and evolution of sub-Neptunes remain unclear.

Ans.7 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international food safety and quality standard-setting body. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It was created by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in May 1963. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Objective: Protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- Members: It consists of 189 member countries including India.
- Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO interested in international food standards.
- Funding: Funded through the regular budgets of WHO and FAO.

- Codex currently has standards for Sorghum and Pearl Millet. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

Ans.8 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Global Stocktake is a periodic review mechanism established under the Paris Agreement in 2015. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- The stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at the end of 2023. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Its primary objectives are to assess individual countries' efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and transition to renewable energy sources.
- The stocktake is designed to keep countries accountable and encourage them to increase their climate ambitions over time.

Ans.9 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Under the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability.
- It increases the quantum of reservation for people suffering from disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Government funded educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions will have to provide inclusive education.
- The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State Commissioners will act as regulatory bodies and Grievance

Redressal agencies, monitoring implementation of the Act.

- A separate National and State Fund will be created to provide financial support to the persons with disabilities.

Ans.10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Requires a resolution by the Rajya Sabha, supported by two-thirds majority (present and voting), in the national interest.

- However, the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.
- The AIJS seeks to centralise the recruitment of judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges for all states. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- The recruitment of judges of the lower judiciary is being proposed to be made central, following which they'll be assigned to states.



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